



April 30, 2015

Gambling Action Alert



Two casino hearings in Chicago - May 4 and May 11

Rep. Robert Rita will chair two meetings of the House Executive Committee in Chicago in the 6th floor Conference **Room C-600 in the Michael A. Bilandic Building at 10:00 a.m.**

- **Monday, May 4 - National gambling trends**
- **Monday, May 11 - Gambling and its Ancillary Industries: Tourism, Hotels, Restaurants**

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

If you live in the Chicago area, plan to attend the hearings to show your opposition to a Chicago casino, a massive expansion of casino gambling at racetracks, and 5 more land-based casinos.

Contact Rep. Rita and tell him **NO MORE GAMBLING**.

E-mail: robertbobrita@aol.com, or call 708-396-2822 or 217-558-1000.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action.

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GAMBLING UPDATES FROM AROUND ILLINOIS

Rauner appointee to Illinois Gaming Board heads group that took money from casino

Illinois State Police special agent Hector Alejandro was appointed to the Gaming Board. The

governor noted that Alejandro is the president of the Hispanic Illinois State Law Enforcement Association, or HISLEA, a nonprofit organization of Latino police officers. The group - which holds safety seminars and provides college scholarships - has taken \$5,500 in donations from Rivers Casino since 2012.

Another HISLEA member, past president Isaiah "Danny" Vega, is the gaming board's deputy administrator of enforcement, investigating casinos to ensure they're operating above board. [Read more.](#)

Can Arlington Park survive against casino-fed racetracks?

Illinois racetracks want to transform their facilities into land-based casinos with hundreds of slot machines. The Daily Herald reported racetracks are not asking for a gift from the state of Illinois or its taxpayers. They merely want the right to compete with other gaming interests. [Read more.](#)

Casino cafes are not good for local economies

Corporations have quietly been opening hundreds of casino cafes in neighborhoods across the state over the past several months. Just 10 corporations are operating 185 cafes already, and they have announced plans to open hundreds more. They offer a minimal menu, operate out of a small storefront and have just enough staff to keep the lights on and the slots spinning, sometimes for 20 hours a day. [Read more.](#)

Rockford Park District commissioners asked staff to poll residents who use their facilities before determining whether to add video gambling and lottery sales to three golf courses and two sports complexes.

... "We are already overburdened with gaming machines in dozens of area locations," said Wester Wuori, a public relations professional who is active in the community. "Local legislative bodies are already struggling with how to close the Pandora's box of gaming they opened with the statewide expansion of gaming in 2009." [Read more.](#)

Video gambling at East Peoria Huck's on hold amid truck stop debate

The Illinois Gaming Board approved an application for video gambling at a Huck's, with the designation as a truck stop. Now the City of East Peoria is preparing to file for declaratory action against the gaming board and the store's owners to get the license revoked.

The Mayor said "Because of the proximity of the Huck's facility to residential areas, the city of East Peoria will not under any circumstances permit its operation as a truck stop." [Read more.](#)

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